GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4739
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
CENTRAL STATISTICAL ORGANISATION`S REPORT
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Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Statistical Organisation(CSO) has released his report on agricultural employment, land holding pattern, indebtedness, productivity, willingness of farmers to continue with farming etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government on the basis of the findings of the report?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) The National Sample Survey Organisation has released the Reports on `Some Aspects of Land Holdings in India.`, `Indebtedness of Farmers Households` and `Some Aspects of Farming 2003`, on the basis of its 59th round survey results. Agricultural productivity was not covered under this survey.

(b) The highlights of the Reports mentioned above are enclosed.

(c) The Government of India has accorded the highest priority to revitalization of rural economy including agriculture sector and bringing improvement in the conditions of farmers. For this purpose a number of schemes are undertaken in various states and farmers are given assistance under different components. Most of the schemes are being implemented through the State Governments. The policy decisions are (i) doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities,(ii) restructure the rate of interest in favour of farmers, (iii) revamping of cooperative credit structure,(iv) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme(NAIS) & (v) special package of rehabilitation to mitigate the distress of farmers in the districts registering high incidence of farmers suicide in the identified States, namely, Maharasthra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala and effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas.

Land Holdings in India

Highlights:

There were 101.3 million holdings operated during the kharif season of 2002-03 and 95.7 million holdings operated during the rabi season of the same agricultural year.

Average area operated per holding in 2002-03 was 1.06 hectares compared to 1.34 hectares during 1991-92 and 1.67 hectares in 1981-82.

Marginal holdings (of size 1 hectare or less) in 2002-03 constituted 70% of all operational holdings, small holdings (size 1 to 2 hectares) constituted 16%, semimedium holdings (2 to 4 hectares), 9%, medium holdings (4 to 10 hectares), 4%, and large holdings (over 10 hectares), less than 1%.

The share of marginal holdings in total operated area climbed by 6-7 percentage points since 1991-92 to reach 22-23%, drawing level with the shares of the semi-medium and medium holdings, which had the largest shares in 1991-92.

Tenant holdings, that is, holdings with partly or wholly leased -in land, formed about 10% of operational holdings during 2002-03 compared to 11% in 1991-92. On an average, a tenant holding operated 0.7 hectares of tenanted land in 2002-03.

The share of leased-in land in total operated area, which has been declining more or less steadily from 10.7% in 1960-61, was 6.5% for the kharif season of 2002-03.

At the all-India level, the size distribution of operational land holdings exhibited more or less the same degree of concentration (as measured by Gini`s coefficient of concentration) as in 1991-92.

In West Bengal, Bihar (including Jharkhand), and Orissa, the degree of concentration of the size distribution of operational land

holdings was appreciably lower in 2002-03 than it was in 1991-92. In Kerala, the degree of concentration registered a fall in each of the three decades prior to 2002-03.

Sharecropping remained the most widely prevalent form of lease contract, covering 41% of all tenanted land. However, the shares of `fixed money` and `fixed produce` appeared to be on the increase, together accounting for over 50% of leased-in land in 2002-03.

Net sown area constituted 87% of operated land during the kharif season and 57% during the rabi season.

Irrigated land formed 42% of net sown area during the kharif season and 67% during the rabi season.

About 64% of net sown area was under cereal cultivation in both the seasons of the agricultural year.

NSS Report No. 492: Operational Land Holdings, 2002-03

Some Aspects of Farming, 2003

Highlights:

$ An estimated 27% of farmers did not like farming because it was not profitable. In all, 40% felt that, given a choice, they would take up some other career.

$ The break-up of members of farmer households by educational level was very similar to that of the entire rural population.

$ Nearly 5% of farmer households had a member who belonged to a self-help group. Only 2% had a member who belonged to a registered farmers` organisation.

$ About 18% of farmer households knew what bio-fertilisers were and 29% understood what minimum support price meant. Only 8% had heard of the World Trade Organisation.

$ Only 4% of farmer households had ever insured their crops and 57% did not know that crops could be insured.

$ About 29% of farmer households included a member of a cooperative society. Only 19% had availed themselves of services from a cooperative. Most of these households availed themselves of either credit facilities, or services related to seeds or fertilisers.

$ Almost 48% of farmer households purchased their seeds and 47% used farmsaved seeds. Whereas 30% farmers replaced seed varieties every year, another 32% replaced them every alternate year.

$ Fertilisers were used by 76% farmer households during the kharif and 54% during the rabi season. For 27% households, fertilisers were available within the village.

$ Organic manure was used by 56% farmer households during the kharif and 38% during the rabi season. It was available within the village for 68% households during the kharif and 75% households during the rabi season.

$ Improved seeds were used by 46% farmer households during the kharif and 34% during the rabi season. They were available within the village for 18% farmer households.

$ Pesticides were used by 46% farmer households during kharif and 31% during rabi. Veterinary services were used by 30% during kharif and 22% during rabi. Only 1.5-2% of farmer households said facilities for testing of fertilisers or pesticides were available to them.

$ Among the various agricultural activities covered in the survey, 96.2% of all land used for farming during the kharif and 95.1% during the rabi season was devoted to cultivation, including horticulture, sericulture and vermiculture. In case of leased-in land, 98.2% during the kharif and 97% during the rabi season was cultivated.

$ The share of orchards and plantations in total farmed land was 3% during the kharif and 4% during the rabi season. In land farmed by Scheduled Caste households, the share of orchards and plantations was 1-2%.

$ Farmer households possessing less than 0.01 hectares of land - who devoted only 14% of farmed land to cultivation - reported 69% of farmed land as used for dairying, compared to 0.35% for all farmer households taken together.

$ Almost 50% of all land irrigated during the kharif season and 60% during the rabi season was irrigated by tube-wells. Wells were used to irrigate 19% of 1and during kharif and 16% during rabi. Canals accounted for irrigation of 18% land during kharif and 14% during rabi.

$ An estimated 62% of net irrigated area during kharif and 69% during rabi was devoted to cultivation of cereal crops.

$ Gross irrigated area accounted for 42% of cropped area during the kharif and 56% during the rabi season.

$ About 79% of gross irrigated area during the kharif and 83% during the rabi season was irrigated without the use of any device. Around 5% was irrigated with the help of diesel pumps and 4% with electric pumps.

$ Of the farmer households using non-human energy for ploughing, about 47% used diesel tractors while 52% relied on animal power. Among those using non-human energy for harvesting, 59% used diesel-powered machines. Of those reporting non-human energy use for irrigation, 66% used diesel pumps and 33% used electric pumps.

NSS Report No.496: Some Aspects of Farming, 2003

Indebtedness of Farmer Households

Highlights:

@ At all-India level, estimated number of rural households was 147.90 million, of whom 60.4% were farmer households.

@ Out of 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted i.e. having a liability in cash or kind with value Rs. 300 or more at the time of transaction.

@ Estimated prevalence of indebtedness among farmer households was highest in Andhra Pradesh (82.0%), followed by Tamil Nadu (74.5%) and Punjab (65.4%).

@ Estimated number of indebted farmer households was highest in Uttar Pradesh (6.9 million), followed by Andhra Pradesh (4.9 million) and Maharashtra (3.6 million).

@ Going by principal source of income, 57% farmer households were cultivators. Among them 48% were indebted.

@ Households with 1 hectare or less land accounted for 66% of all farmer households. About 45% of them were indebted.

@ More than 50% of indebted farmer households had taken loan for the purpose of capital or current expenditure in farm business. Such loans accounted for 584 rupees out of every 1000 rupees of outstanding loan.

@ Marriages and ceremonies accounted for 111 rupees per 1000 rupees of outstanding loans of farmer households. Among the states the proportion was highest in Bihar (229 rupees per 1000 rupees), followed by Rajasthan (176 rupees per 1000 rupees).

@ The most important source of loan in terms of percentage of outstanding loan amount was banks (36%), followed by moneylenders (26%).

@ Average outstanding loan per farmer household was highest in the state of Punjab, followed by Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

NSS Report No.498: Indebtedness of Farmer Households, 2003